

CHAPTER MEETING IN CATHCART



E.K.W.M. MEMBERS

L to R. Mavis Wasley, Leone Fairweather, Marg Sheaves, Rose & Jack Dickenson, Jenny Drenkhahn, Phil McGrath and Rob Whiter at the Cathcart Hall, before the tour of the village.

Inside:

VALE

RENE DAVIDSON
AND
DENIS DONOVAN

MORSECODIAN REPORT

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

During the recent South East Chapter meeting and excursion to Cathcart village, members from museums and Historical Societies from Cooma to Mallacoota joined in a guided tour given by Marilyn and Wilf Giles. An interesting insight into past times and residents who had lived and worked in the area. For many it was a chance to learn more about a small place we often drive through and understand the events which have shaped its development.

Members also enjoyed an inspection of Cathcart Collectables, the truly wonderful collection of

items collected over the years by Bob and Eileen Walder and housed in their museum in the village. Among items on display is in the order of 135 electric jugs (pictured) and a huge array of fascinating

woodworking and general tools, enough to satisfy any self respecting fella and of course many other long forgotten items BUT quite a few people commented that "I've got one of thoseand I still use it!!"

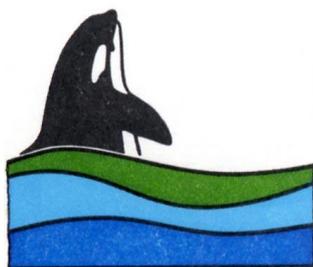


Revamp of Eden's Historic Site Markers

With the welcome assistance of the Eden Men's Shed team the town's historic site markers are receiving a much needed face lift and at the same time a few new sites will be identified. An improved system of painting and lettering will see the information boards looking spic and span in

no time. These popular sign boards have provided an insight into the Eden of yesteryear for visitors to the town for 15 years now and on the whole have weathered well despite some abuse from vandals in that time. It is a common sight to see tourists stop and read the boards which stretch from the Council building at

Mitchell Street to the Lookout encompassing St Georges Church and Mary McKillop Hall on side streets. Some research is required to be done into various other sites to be included and any assistance with this would be welcome. Contact Jack Dickenson or Rob Whiter if you can help with this research project.



Vale

Rene Davidson

A long serving member and supporter of our organisation, Rene Davidson will be sadly missed by the museum and it's members.

As a descendant of the whaling family Rene was often called upon to give researchers first hand information and details of the remarkable relationship between his grandfather George Davidson and OLD TOM and his "pack" of killer whales.

Rene's efforts in compiling two books of historic photographs of the whaling era and the Eden township, are a legacy to his passion for the history of the area. "Whalemen of Twofold Bay" and "Eden Revisited" are constantly referred to



Photo: Rene Davidson (left) with Louis Simpson and David Smith during the preservation of OLD TOM's skeleton in the late 1970's

when photos of Eden's past are required.

Together with John Matheison, Rene worked to preserve and remount the skeletons of a False Killer Whale, an Australian Fur Seal and later a Minke Whale for exhibition in the

galleries at the museum.

The membership sends their sincere sympathies to Faye, Peter and Martin and their families.



New Equipment Purchases for EKWM



Above: Maree Rankin EKWM Office coordinator demonstrating the new photocopier to Leone Fairweather and Carole Goodwin

Some recent equipment purchases have included a Xerox Photocopier printer for the office and curatorial work, a Sony digital monitor for installation at the front entrance as a notice board, which can be programmed from the office, and acoustic panels for the theatre to improve the atmosphere for seminars and meetings there. This upgrade and addition of equipment will allow us to

enhance the publications which we produce in house, and improve graphic production for exhibition purposes.

The "front of house display" will inform visitors of open hours admission fees, current and future exhibitions and any events being held at the museum or locally. Ideas for inclusion in this display are welcome as this is an area we haven't fully explored as yet.

2 IC AT THE TELEGRAPH DESK

Phil McGrath has co opted Kevin Barber to attend Wednesday mornings with him at the telegraph desk at the Eden Killer Whale Museum. Kevin kindly agreed to assist Phil by explaining some of the mysterious workings of this rare skill whilst Phil is concentrating on sending and receiving telegrams for visitors. Thanks Kev!!

The following report from Phil explains the need for assistance!

During December and prior to Christmas visitor numbers remained fairly stable with a surprising number of overseas visitors with children, mainly from the U.K. and Europe touring Australia for 3 – 4 months. Crowds certainly increased from boxing day onwards, but it seemed that the day after boxing day seemed busier still.

New Years day and Wednesday 2nd were very busy days, so much so, that Leo at Beechworth thought he might lose the title of the “Busiest Telegraph Station”. Thanks to Kevin Barber for coming in to assist with the visitors who are very intrigued with what is going on. The young ones are even enthralled with the Olivetti typewriter (50s –60s

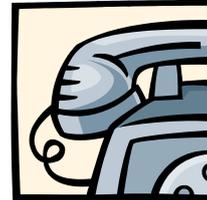
model), enquiring “where does the print out come from”, etc.

A same day delivery service can sometimes still be achieved, with Des Jackson, Beechworth, delivering one of our messages to the addressee in Wodonga, on his way back home!

Good work Des.

Whilst quieter times were evident during February, we did have a visit from Mallacoota P12 College, for which I attended by request from them, resulting in a very pleasant visit for all concerned.

Bus tours have now also recommenced which is helping to improve traffic figures. It would be good if the Bus companies could be encouraged to extend their visits for longer periods.



The total of messages handled during the same period in the previous year was 165 sent/received. Total of messages during the same period this year was 489 sent/received. Although the number of days I attended increased from 16 to 29 days this year, calculated on a daily basis, traffic figures have increased by more than 50%. It is evident our visitors are enjoying the display and I look forward to continuing these activities.

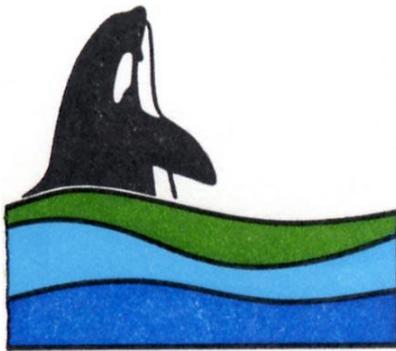
Cheers for now

Phil McGrath
Morsecodian.



Denis Donovan's involvement with EKWM started when the committee was reformed in the 1970's. With ambitious plans to extend the original building to include more exhibition space and provide a retail area and even toilets! Denis was a willing participant in planning and implementing progress at the museum. He and Nellie were generous museum supporters being one of the guarantors for the

first building loan of \$150,000. During those years they worked with members including Beryl Bowler and Louis and Gwen Simpson. Later Denis worked with Eden's Historic Cemetery Committee achieving great results there too. The membership sends their sincere sympathies to his wife Nellie, and Flo, Wilma and their families.



Calendar of Events

Opening of Exhibitions
 "Year of the Scout" and
 "Men of Timber"

EKWM 6pm Thurs. 13th Mar.

EASTER 21st to 24th March

Seniors Week

Morning Tea at the Museum
 10am Monday 7th April

Heritage Week

Sat 19th April 2pm
 Guided walk from RSL Hall
 to Museum featuring
 Historic buildings & Site
 Markers then afternoon tea

NSW School Holidays.

Sat. 12th to Sun. 27th Apr.

Chapter Meeting

Berridale Saturday 17th
 May

EDEN KILLER WHALE
 MUSEUM

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

SEE US AT.

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Guides meet to discuss season's activities

EKWM guides met this week to review the holiday guiding rosters. They have maintained a regular guiding roster on Wednesday mornings over the Christmas holidays. Visitors were assured of a guided tour of the lighthouse and some galleries together with supervised activities for children on weekdays and of course morse code demonstrations. This added service has been well received. The extra dimension a guided tour or just some explanation gives when there is so much to take in, particularly on a limited time frame that some of the coaches tours have, improves the visitor's experience. This regular



EKWM Guides from L. Anne Felton, Jenny Drenkhahn, Barry Smith, Helen Hillier and Fiona Boyd

guiding will be continued through the next school holiday sessions on Thursday mornings with possible extension to Wednesday mornings time permitting.

Some logistical problems with visitors entering the lantern room before a tour is finished will hopefully

be avoided with some tour signage. Further local promotion of the guiding schedule and museum activities in general could be explored with information emailed to annual ticket holders for example and more special pamphlets distributed to tourist facilities.

Cross Cultural Workshop.....Chapter Project

On Saturday 8th March

A workshop was held at EKWM and Jigamy Keeping Place with participants from Bega, Bombala, Merimbula, Mallacoota, Jigamy and Eden Museums.

Facilitators Russel Cooke and Graham Moore, Cultural Officer with NPWS, guided us through some of the traditions and documented history of aboriginal culture in this region. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and share experiences of working with our indigenous

community so that a valuable working relationship can be achieved especially for the museum related aspects of artefact collections and display.

After lunch at the Keeping Place a further session explored practical methods of beginning to build a good rapport between both cultures in our museum communities. Some topics suggested were; exchange of information about our organisations with the indigenous communities in our local areas;

Assessment and advice on artifacts by cultural officers; involvement of aboriginal members as guides at local museums. Many other ideas were raised and a report from this workshop will be distributed from the Chapter .

This workshop was funded by a grant from Museums & Galleries NSW. Thanks to Shirley Bazely from Merimbula Museum for her work in administering and co ordinating the workshop.



EDEN KILLER WHALE MUSEUM

Schedule of meetings

Monthly Business Meeting	7:30pm	2 nd Wednesday each month	Museum Theatre
Curatorial Meeting	1:00pm	1 st Monday each month	Museum Library
Museum Friends Meeting	9:00am	2 nd Wednesday (commence 2008)	Museum Library